GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1510
ANSWERED ON:13.03.2002
TOUTS IN PASSPORT OFFICES .
MINATI SEN

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) Whether the unauthorised agents are active in and around passport offices throughout the country to get passport for their parties in connivance with office staff;

(b) if so, the number of cases registered in this connection so far;

(c) the number of touts arrested for such offence so far; and

(d) the steps taken to check these type of agents from such operation in and around the passport office premises?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS(SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH)

(a) The Govt. is aware that unauthorised agents are active around passport offices in the country. However, investigations so far have not established any direct linkage between these unauthorised agents and employees of Passport Offices.

(b&c) Information is being collected and would be laid on the Table of the House.

(d) The Passport Officer and other officers go on round of the Passport Office premises to check on the presence of touts or unauthorised agents. To eliminate the menace of unauthorised agents or touts, recognised travel agents have been authorised to submit applications for passport related services. In addition, facilitation counters have been introduced in some passport offices where Ex-Service-men`s Association has been permitted to assist applicants in filling of passport applications. Police Authorities have also been approached to curb the activities of such touts/unauthorised agents.